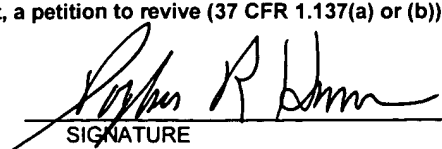


<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>WI.2247 PCT-US</b> U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/538834</b>
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/DE2003/003941</b>	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>27 November 2003</b>	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>16 December 2002</b>
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>PRINTING BLANKET ASSEMBLY FOR A BLANKET CYLINDER AND METHODS FOR PRODUCING A PRINTING BLANKET ASSEMBLY</b>		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>KUMMET, Andreas</b>		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included: 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76. 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney and/or change of address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821- 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <b>See Attachment</b>		

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/538854</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/DE2003/003941</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>W1.2247 PCT-US</b>	
The following fees have been submitted				<b>CALCULATIONS      PTO USE ONLY</b>	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic national fee..... \$300				\$ 300.00	
22. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examination fee If International preliminary examination report prepared by USPTO and all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$100 All other situations..... \$200				\$ 200.00	
23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search fee Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) has been paid on the international application to the USPTO as an International Searching Authority..... \$100 International Search Report prepared and provided to the Office..... \$400 All other situations..... \$500				\$ 400.00	
<b>TOTAL OF 21, 22 and 23 =</b>				<b>\$ 900.00</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.					
Total Sheets	Extra Sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE		
- 100 =	/50 =		x \$250	\$ -----	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(h)).				\$ -----	
<b>CLAIMS</b>	<b>NUMBER FILED</b>	<b>NUMBER EXTRA</b>	<b>RATE</b>		
Total claims	<b>54 - 20 =</b>	<b>34</b>	x \$ 50	\$ 1700.00	
Independent claims	<b>4 - 3 =</b>	<b>1</b>	x \$200	\$ 200.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$360	\$ -----	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$ 2800.00</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Fees above are reduced by 1/2.					
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$ 2800.00</b>	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(i)).				\$ -----	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				<b>\$ 2800.00</b>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 40.00	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				<b>\$ 2840.00</b>	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				Amount to be charged:	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <b>2840.00</b> to cover the above fees is enclosed. <span style="float: right;"><b>Check No. 19277</b></span> b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>10-1213</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.					
<b>NOTE:</b> Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: <b>Douglas R. Hanscom</b> <b>Jones, Tullar and Cooper, P.C.</b> <b>P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station</b> <b>Arlington, VA 22202</b> <b>703-415-1500</b>					
				 SIGNATURE	
				<b>Douglas R. Hanscom</b> NAME	
				<b>26,600</b> REGISTRATION NUMBER	

10/538854

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 JUN 2005

ATTACHMENT

- A) Six (6) sheets of Formal Patent Drawings
- B) WO 2004/054807 A1, published July 1, 2004
- C) Request for Additional Priority, mailed December 12, 2003, with translation
- D) International Search Report, dated June 15, 2004, with translation
- E) Chapter II Demand filed June 28, 2004
- F) Request for Thorough Examination filed June 29, 2004, with translation
- G) Letter from KBA, with Article 19 claims, dated June 28, 2004, with translation
- H) Written Notification dated November 11, 2004, with translation
- I) Notice of Informal Discussion with Applicant, dated November 23, 2004, with translation
- J) Letter from KBA, with Article 34 claims, dated December 14, 2004, with translation
- K) Notice of Informal Discussion with Applicant, dated December 15, 2004, with translation
- L) Request to Limit Claims dated March 10, 2005, with translation
- M) Response by KBA dated March 11, 2005, with translation
- N) IPER dated May 24, 2005, with translation

JAN MCLIN CLAYBERG

PATENT AND TECHNICAL TRANSLATION

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CERTIFIED BY AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

\* GERMAN AND FRENCH TO ENGLISH

\*\* ENGLISH TO GERMAN

June 10, 2005

DECLARATION

The undersigned, Olaf Bexhoeft, hereby states that he is well acquainted with both the English and German languages and that the attached is a true translation to the best of his knowledge and ability of the German text of PCT/DE2003/003941, filed 11/27/2003, and published on 07/01/2004 under No. WO 2004/054807 A1, and of eleven (11) pages of amended claims.

The undersigned further declares that the above statement is true; and further, that this statement was made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any patent resulting therefrom.



Olaf Bexhoeft  
5316 Little Falls Rd.  
Arlington, VA 22207-1522

Translation of the pertinent portions of an International Preliminary Examination Report, mailed 05/24/2005

2. This report comprises a total of 8 pages, including the cover page. Attachments have also be provided.

3. This report contains information regarding the following items:

- I Basis of the Report
- III No Preparation of an Expert Opinion Regarding Novelty, Inventive Activities and Commercial Applicability
- IV Lack of Unity of the Invention
- V Reasoned Determination under Rule 66.2 a)ii)

I Basis of the Report

1. Regarding the contents of the International Application

Specification, pages

3 to 16 published version  
1, 2 received 12/18/04 with letter of 12/14/04

Claims, nos.

1 to 69 received 12/18/04 with letter of 12/14/04

Drawings, sheets

1/6 to 6/6 published version

III No Preparation of an Expert Opinion Regarding Novelty, Inventive Activities and Commercial Applicability

1. Claims 2 to 4, 39 to 69 were not examined to determine whether the claimed invention is to be considered as being novel, based on inventive activities (non-obvious) and commercially usable.

Reasons:

The above mentioned claims 2 to 4, 39 to 69 relate to the subject mentioned below, for which no international preliminary examination need to be prepared:

**see the attached sheet**

IV Lack of Unity of the Invention

1. Upon request for restricting the claims or payment

of additional fees, Applicant has

X paid additional fees

3. The Office is of the opinion that the requirement for unity of the invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3

X has not been met for the following reasons:

**see the attached sheet**

4. Therefore, for preparing this report, an international preliminary examination for the following portions of the international application was performed:

X all portions relating to claims 1, 5 to 38.

V Reasoned Determination under Article 35(2)

1. Determination

Novelty	Yes: Claims 1, 5 to 24
	No: Claims 25

Inventive Activities	Yes: Claims 1, 5 to 24
	No: Claims 26 to 38

Commercial Applicability	Yes: Claims 1, 5 to 38
	No: Claims

2. References and Explanations

**see the attached sheet**

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

ATTACHED SHEET

Re.: Item III

In accordance with the request of Applicant of 12/14/2004, the examination is to be limited to claims 1, 5 to 24 and 25 to 38.

Re.: Item IV

1. This Office has determined that the international application contains several inventions, which are not connected by a single common inventive idea (Rule 13.1 PCT), namely:

I: Claim 1 and 5 to 24:

Printing blanket unit with a filler material as support element.

II: Claims 25 to 38:

Subsequent vulcanization of a printing blanket unit with a filler material.

2. The reasons for this are the following:

A printing blanket unit with a filler element as a support element and the special extension in the circumferential direction in accordance with the characteristic essential for the first invention does not inevitably have a subsequent vulcanization step in the production process in accordance with the characteristic essential for the second invention in accordance with independent claim 25, and vice versa.

3. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 13.1 PCT there is no connection here in the form of a technical interrelationship between the two inventions, which would be expressed in **both** independent claims by identical or corresponding special technical characteristics.

Re.: Item V

1. First Invention:

1.1 Claim 1:

1.1.1 Prior Art:

Document D2, mentioned in the specification, discloses

a printing blanket unit with all characteristics in the preamble of independent claim 1.

1.1.2 Object:

Making printing blanket units of a printing blanket unit cylinder of a printing press available.

1.1.3 Attainment:

The specific combination of all characteristics of claim 1, above all the special arrangement of a filler material embodied as a support element in accordance with the characterizing portion of claim 1, is neither described nor suggested in the prior art, so that inventive activities within the meaning of Article 33(3) PCT exist.

1.2 Claims 5 to 24:

Dependent claims 5 to 24 define advantageous embodiments of a printing blanket unit, each with all characteristics of independent claim 1.

2. Second Invention:

2.1 **Novelty:**

2.1.1

The present invention does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject of independent claim 25 is not novel within the meaning of Article 33(2) PCT.

2.1.2

Document D1, which is considered to be the closest prior art, already discloses, see the abstract and column 2, lines 42 to column 5, line 43, and Figs. 1 and 2, all characteristics of present claim 25, see for example:

"25. A method for producing a printing blanket unit for a printing blanket cylinder of a printing press (abstract, Figs. 1 and 2), having a dimensionally stable support plate (28) and a printing blanket (22, 40) fastened on the exterior (Figs. 1 and 2) of the support plate (28), wherein filler material (37) is arranged on at least one end (Figs. 1 and 2) of the printing blanket (22, 40), wherein at least the support plate (28) is arranged on a device (column 3, line 44, to column 4, line 48) for processing outside the printing press, and the filler material (37) is introduced into this processing device (columns 3 and 4), characterized in that, following the introduction (column 3, lines 57 to 66 and column 4, lines 19 to 32) of the filler material (37), the printing blanket unit (Figs. 1 and 2) is vulcanized



(column 3, lines 57 to 66, and column 4, lines 19 to 32)".

## **2.2 Inventive Activities**

### **2.2.1**

Dependent claims 26 to 38 do not contain any characteristics which, in combination with the characteristics of any claim from which they depend, would meet the requirements of PCT regarding novelty or inventive activities in accordance with Article 33 PCT. The reasons for this are the following:

### **2.2.2 Claims 26 to 29 and 32 to 38:**

Claims 26 to 29 and 32 to 38 relate to a slight change of the method in accordance with claim 25, which lies within the scope of what one skilled in the art is accustomed to doing on the basis of considerations with which he is conversant, in particular since the advantages achieved thereby can be easily predicted. Therefore the subject of claims 26 to 29 and 32 to 38 is not based on inventive activities.

### **2.2.3 Claims 30 and 31:**

The characteristics of dependent claims 30 and 31 have already been used for the same purpose in a similar method, see in this connection document D2. It would therefore be obvious to one skilled in the art to employ these characteristics also in connection with a method in accordance with document D1 in order to arrive in this way at a method in accordance with claims 30 and 31.